(b) whether the former President after the accident remained lying on the road for half-an-hour without any medical assistance, if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) whether there have been any lapses in the security arrangements made for his protection; if so, what are the details thereof and also what are the details of the security arrangements made; and

(d) whether Government propose to appoint an inquiry commission to probe into the whole matter, if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The Government of Punjab instituted an Inquiry which was conducted by Principal Secretary (Deptt. of Home Affairs and Justice). Government of Punjab into the incident of 29th November, 1994 in which Giani Zail Singh was injured in a road accident. As per the report, Giani Zail Singh left Punjab Raj Bhavan at about 11.25 A.M. on 29-11-1994 for Anandpur Sahib in the bullet-proof car provided to him. On the return journey for Ropar/Chandigarh, after travelling about 5-6 Kms. from Kiratpur towards Ropar, the pilot gypsy in the carcade of the VIP which was 50-60 yards ahead from the VIP vehicle had signalled to the driver of the truck (PBI 1275) which was coming from the opposite direction to give way for the VIP car. The driver of the truck vacated the metalled portion of the road and got on the kucha portion which was 6 inches below the level of the road. It appears that the driver of the truck applied brakes and skidded but lost control over the vehicle as a result of which the truck swerved and hit the right front side of the VIP's bullet-proof-car, which caved in towards the steering wheel. All the four occupants of the car namely Giani Zail Singh, his nephew Basant Singh, driver Devinder Singh and SI Dharamvir Singh of Delhi Police, PSO of Giani Zail Singh were injured in the accident. They were immediately taken to the Civil Hospital Ropar and thereafter to PGI Chandigarh. The Deputy Commissioner and SSP Ropar accompanied the injured to PGI Chandigarh where all of them were admitted for further treatment. Inquiry Officer has concluded that it was a sudden accident.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. Interrogation of the truck driver and investigations about the owner of the truck have not revealed anything incriminating which would point a finger towards possibility of sabotage by terrorists.

Freedom fighters pension to the participants in Naval strike in 1946

482. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether freedom fighters pension has been granted to all the persons who had participated in the Naval Strike in 1946 and lost their jobs as a result thereof

(b) if so, the number of persons from Punjab who have applied for this pension, with documents about the loss of jobs, duly supported, by service certificate based on the relevant records:

(c) the reasons for which these freedom fighters have not been granted pension so far;

(d) the details of representations received by Government in this regard recently, and

(e) the steps taken by Government to grant freedom fighters pension to these persons without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) to (e) Freedom fighters pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme is given only to those participants of the Royal Indian Navy Mutiny (Naval Strike) in 1946 who had to lose their jobs after their categorisation as 'dismissed', 'services no longer required' or 'unsuitable'. While no no separate record of the claims received from the participants of the Naval Strike is kept, the claims of all the participants of this Strike, including those from Punjab, who were discharged as dismissed/services no longer required/ unsuitable have been considered and decisions already communicated to the applicants. Some applicants whose claims for pension were rejected on the ground of their non-fulfilling the eligibility conditions, keep on sending review petitions/ representations against the decision of the Government. Receipt and disposal of such representations being a continuous process, it is not possible to prescribe any definite time schedule for their disposal.

Killings in North East

483. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of civilians, paramilitary personnel and extremists who were killed in various incidents during the last two years in the North-East; and

(b) whether Government propose to solve the problems being faced by the people of North-East?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) According to available records, the number of persons killed during the last two years in the four most seriously affected North-Eastern States is as follows:—

	1993	1994
ASSAM :		
(a) Civilians	67	202
(b) Police/Army	24	35
(c) Extremists	27	63
NAGALAND :		
(a) Civilians	62	110
(b) Police/Army	43	26
(c) Extremists	68	56
MANIPUR :		
(a) Civilians	266	189
(b) Police/Army	91	98
(c) Extremists	54	61
TRIPURA :		
(a) Civilians	42	14
(b) Police/Army	13	10
(c) Extremists	7	10